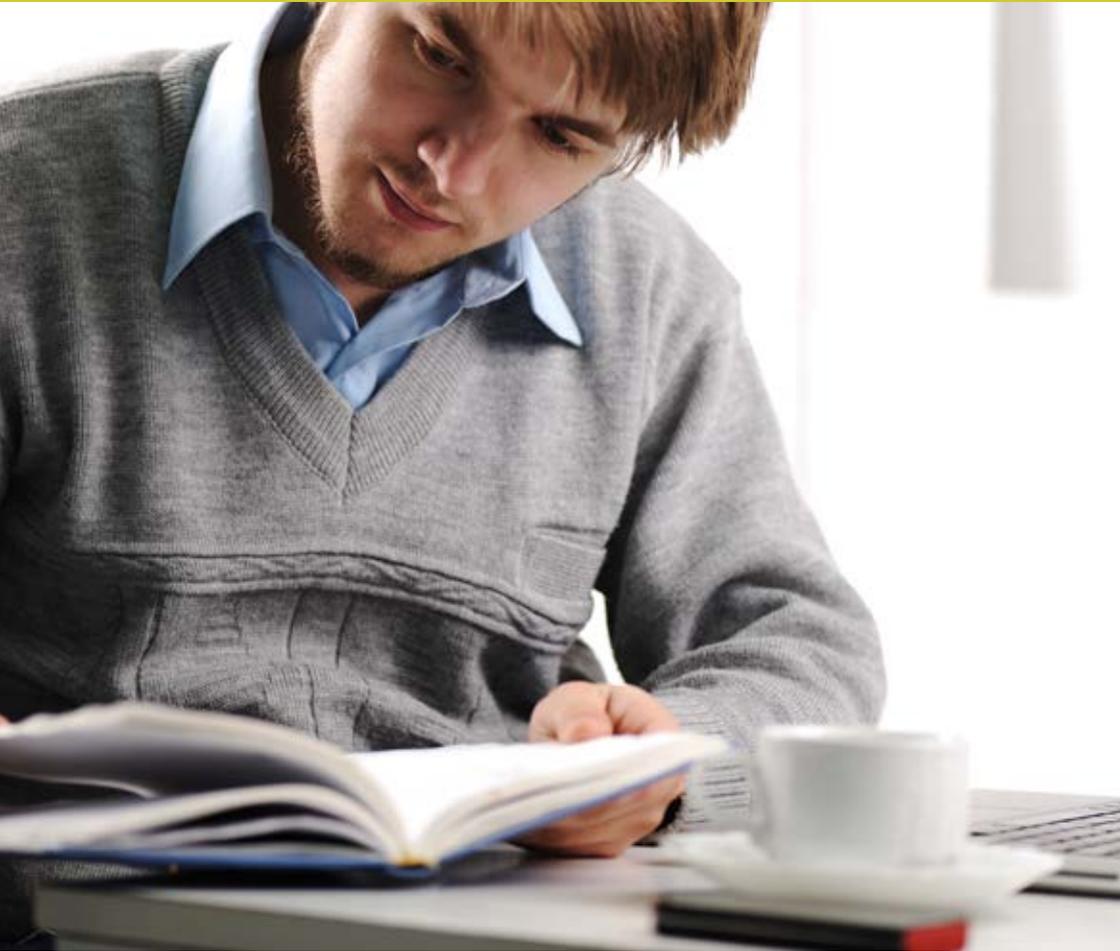


“Besides education and the provision of services, research is one of the three cornerstones of the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication. The Department aims to carry out research that stands up to international competition.”



Department of Translation,  
Interpreting and Communication



## MISSION STATEMENT

*The Department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication seeks to be a national and international player in scientific research within the field of Applied Language Studies and related disciplines. Through its research groups EQTIS, GOLLD, INTERCOMM, LT3 and TRACE, the department wishes to contribute to the scientific exploration and further development of translation studies, interpreting studies, multilingual communication, language/translation technology and language/translation didactics. The department creates the necessary conditions for this and strives to make the results of its research available to third parties and to integrate them in its own education, research and the provision of services.*



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EQTIS (Empirical and Quantitative Translation and Interpreting Studies) specialises in corpus- and process-based research into language use in various types of translations (regular, written translations, audiovisual translations and oral translations by interpreters), with a specific focus on the linguistic and contextual factors which determine translational choices. Language use is compared to that in source texts and non-translated texts. The data extracted from the corpora are analysed and interpreted using statistical methods. In that way, EQTIS wants to gain a better understanding of the socio-cognitive and discursive mechanisms that drive translation as a product and process.

## Norm conformity in translations

For regular, written translations (newspaper articles, manuals, press releases, legal documents, etc.), it was shown that translators take linguistic norms in the Dutch language more into account than authors of comparable original texts (of the type 'akkoord zijn met' vs. 'akkoord gaan met'). This may be attributable to the fact that translators, in their capacity of intercultural mediators (unlike authors or readers), are less inclined to take linguistic risks. This greater commitment on the part of translators to linguistic norms, however, is not an absolute given, since both genre and source language play an important role. In fact, translations of journalistic texts, for example, appear indistinguishable from their original counterparts, while translations of external communication texts (annual reports, press releases) are linguistically more conformist than similar original texts.

## Cognitive load and intersubjectivity in interpreting

The first pilot studies into the EPICG interpreter corpus have shown that in simultaneous interpreting, specific language behaviour is brought to bear that sums up the stressful communication situation of interpretation: the frequency of hesitation ('errr') is, as expected, higher than in spontaneous spoken language, but the same also applies to the frequency of some connectors and hedges ('so', ...). In fact, it would seem that interpreters resort to those constantly, even in contexts in which those elements do not appear in the source language, which seems to suggest that the said elements are used in response to the communication situation. Finally, male and female interpreters appear to have different preferences.

## Variation in inter- and intralingual subtitles

In recent years, research into audiovisual translation has focused on intra- and inter-language subtitling; more specifically, the pragmatic aspects occurring in those (use and translation of linguistic acts, interjections, vocatives,...), cultural references (transferring realia) and diatopic, as well as norm-related language variation (lexical, grammatical and pragmatic differences between Belgian Dutch and Netherlandic Dutch, and between European Spanish and Latin American Spanish). For example, it was shown that language use in Flemish subtitles varies, depending on the source language, the speaker and the genre. When, for example, a Flemish speaker is subtitled, this will lead to more Belgian words and constructions than when a Dutch or English speaker is subtitled.





At GOLLD (*Ghent On Language Learning and Didactics*), foreign language acquisition and didactics take centre stage. The members of the research group strive to optimise and innovate language learning by carrying out research into language acquisition processes and language/translation didactics.

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### Indicators of writing competence

Within this project the different cognitive and motivational indicators of writing competence are identified. This is achieved through the analysis of writing materials, more specifically the analysis of the impact that explicit revision instructions have on text quality. Pupils' knowledge of spelling and their attitudes towards their writing practice are also taken into consideration. Thanks to the development of what could be called "writing process analysis" the insights gained from this project can be applied in writing courses.

### Online writing pedagogy

Writing in a foreign language is a complex skill in which both linguistic and cognitive demands need to be met. Since academic writing skills play an important role in the study area of applied language studies, this project sets out to investigate to what extent the development of writing competence can be supported by means

of online tools, including Google Drive and online learning environments. Does the online collaboration between students lead to better texts, and if so, under what conditions? Can they learn to summarise (better) by following an individual learning path online? Particular attention is paid to the relationship between the writing process and the final product. This study ties in with the domains of Computer Assisted Language Learning and Writing Didactics.

### ARDELE

The study and practice of audio-visual translation, subtitling and dubbing in particular, have already proved their worth in language/translation education. The aim of the ARDELE project is to study the scope and limits of the use of audio description when learning a foreign language and when teaching translation. An audio descriptor provides wordless audio-visual clips (of films, television programmes, operas, plays, ...) with oral comments for the benefit of the blind and visually impaired. The results of this research project show that audio description is a useful tool to refine language skills because the little time between two consecutive dialogues necessitates the auto descriptor to formulate descriptions succinctly and correctly. Results also show that working with audio description brings to light cultural differences between learners, which encourages them to reflect on the importance of an accurate communicative appraisal of the message. An app has been developed to do audio description exercises on a mobile phone.



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# INTERCOMM

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INTERCOMM (*Research Centre for Multilingual and Intercultural Communication*) focuses on the study of (multi)language interaction in spoken and written language and on the interaction between the individual language user and his or her context. The continuous dialogue between researchers with different methodological backgrounds promotes more insight into the relationship between multilingualism, society and the individual. The focus is on cultural and sociological differences at both micro level (companies and organisations) and macro level (communities, regions, economic sectors). Different parameters of cultural diversity (power, male/female ratio, linearity, awareness of time, sense of truth, etc.) are investigated. Cultural and language differences are viewed from the perspective of contrastive rhetoric, intercultural perception, the individuality of the corporate culture and the institutional context.

## Subjectivity in corporate communication

The Archive project (*Annual Report Characterisation in Varieties of English*) conducts research into financial company reports in different varieties of English, including American English, British English and BELF (*Business English as a Lingua Franca*), ... We turn our attention to *impression management* in sustainability reports, in which we establish a link between linguistic features and socio-cultural variables, on the one hand, and the effect of those features on appreciation, on the other. This is done via NLP (*Natural Language Processing*) and perception analysis.

## Correspondents, kids and conquistadores: institutional communication

Recent projects focus their attention on external and internal institutional communication. In this vein, corpus-driven, ethnographic research has been conducted into the perception of Flanders in the foreign press and the Communication matrix project of Kind & Gezin has mapped out the quality of services to non-Dutch speakers within the Flemish public institution Kind & Gezin. In the project '*Return of the Conquistadores*', discourse-analytical research was conducted into the perception people have of Spanish investments in the Latin American economy in press releases and media texts.

## Interpreting in practice

The interpreting research focuses, among others, on interpreting practice in international institutions and diplomatic contexts (with the socialisation of budding interpreters as an area of concern). Research into the negotiation process and the perception of roles during interpreted medical consultations has shown that interpreting research can be particularly relevant to society. Research is being done on the basis of authentic conversations in a health setting and bridges research into patient-centred communication and community interpreting (in a medical context). The project was launched in the framework of the promotion policy of equal access to healthcare for all EU citizens (WHO, 2010), for whom language support for non-Dutch-speaking patients is critical. New research is being conducted into the impact of empathy on medical interpreting.

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LT<sub>3</sub> (*Language and Translation Technology Team*) conducts research in the field of language and translation technology. The research group has extensive expertise in the use of machine learning to address a wide range of language technological problems, including the automatic assignment of word classes and lemmas, anaphora resolution, disambiguation of word meanings, information extraction, etc. Most of the research is corpus-based. Statistic and other self-learning systems are used for the 'learning' or inducing of rules and/or models.

**Machine translation**

With the advent of statistical systems, the quality of automatic translation systems has improved considerably. With the help of certain tools, such as *eye tracking* (the recording of eye movements) and keystroke logging, the ROBOT project examines how the post-editing process (the improvement of the output of automatic translation systems) differs from the regular translation process. By means of the SCATE project, an attempt is made to determine the post-editing effort *a priori*, so that the translation environment only offers an automatic translation suggestion if that suggestion represents added value to the translator.

**Terminology**

The study of terms and their use is very much part and parcel of any language course. There is the manual, terminological and terminographic work, which, after the extensive study of the terms and their use, results in structured term banks that contain additional information, including synonyms, definitions, contexts and references to upper and lower terms. Examples are the '*MeSH Termbase Project*', '*JuriGenT*' and the '*Electronic*

*Dictionary of Communication Terminology*'.

However, systems are also being developed for automatic term extraction, aimed at the drafting of so-called 'flat' term lists, devoid of any semantic information. Accordingly, a system has been developed that automatically extracts terms from monolingual and bilingual corpora. The MuST project seeks to automatically detect synonyms and hyponyms, and more recent projects focus on automatic terminology extraction based on comparable corpora, texts on the same subject, but which are not necessarily translations of each other.

**Sentiment analysis**

In the field of automatic sentiment analysis, also known as opinion mining, research is conducted into the detection and analysis of polarity, opinions, emotions and other subjective information. A system that analyses sentiment has several social and commercial applications. In the SubTLe project, it is examined whether suicidal messages can be automatically detected on social network sites, and via the AMiCA project, the harmful content, such as online bullying or paedophilia, is tracked. The SentiFM project analyses the sentiment connected to specific events in economic news items. How automatic sentiment analysis can be applied to determine the online users' preferences, to subsequently offer personalised ads, is the subject of the PARIS project.

# TRACE

[www.trace.ugent.be](http://www.trace.ugent.be)



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Research within TRACE (*Translation and Culture*) draws on methodologies from the interdisciplinary field of translation studies and focuses on translations of literary and other texts that serve as a cultural product. The group works in close collaboration with the VUB/UGent alliance research group Centre for Literature in Translation (CLIV). Members of the research group analyse the discursive traces that translators leave in translation, both in terms of textual and paratextual shifts (prefaces, footnotes, annotations). Studies also consider the specific role of translators as cultural mediators in a given period and the interaction between the agents involved in the editorial and translation process.

## Translation as cultural transfer in the Enlightenment

The project *Translation, Cultural Mediation, and Reception in Britain of J.-J. Rousseau's Discours sur les Sciences et les Arts, 1751–1779: A Study of Translational Poetics, Ideological Adaptation, and Print Cultural Appropriation* conducts an interdisciplinary analysis of the translation and reception of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Discours sur les Sciences et les Arts* in Great Britain. This controversial essay met with a great response in France and beyond: the discourse unleashed not only an endless series of French rejoinders, pamphlets and reviews between February 1751 and September 1753, it also appeared in Great Britain in the form of five different English translations, published over a 30-year period or more (1751–1779). The study concerns the actors or cultural mediators who were involved in the translation process, as well as a comparative study and discourse analysis of the translated texts and the paratextual elements in which the essay was framed in the then, 18th-century British context. A third research component relates to the print-cultural appropriation and reception of the discourse in Great Britain.

## Hugo Claus in French translation

In September 2013, 'La Fondation Louvain' awarded its scientific prize to a comparative and multidisciplinary project on Hugo Claus in French translation. The research project – in collaboration with the University of Louvain-la-Neuve – concentrates on the generation, propagation and reception of the plays of Claus in French translation. What role did translators, their networks and their poetics play in the translations? What other parameters have influenced the image of Claus as French-speaking author? The method is both textual and contextual. A fine-meshed investigation is held into the translation strategies of the different translators and their interaction with regional variations, the (West) Flemish dialect, archaisms and Gallicisms in the source texts. Furthermore, within the context of a more sociological perspective, attention is paid to the role of institutions, publishers, translators of biographies and the reception of Claus's plays.





# PARTICIPATE

## Become a researcher

The department regularly publishes job vacancies for pre- or post-doctoral researchers (lecturers, assistants, academic staff, ...).

- [www.vtc.ugent.be/vacatures](http://www.vtc.ugent.be/vacatures) or
- [www.ugent.be/vacatures](http://www.ugent.be/vacatures)

In addition, the department may act as host for young researchers looking for a supervisor or supervisor for pre- or post-doctoral fellowships, awarded by the FWO, IWT or other financial institutions.

Through the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, the department may confer the following doctoral degrees:

- PhD in translation studies
- PhD in language studies and literature
- PhD in literature
- PhD in language studies

Established researchers from outside Flanders can take part in the department's research activities for several months by means of study leaves and visiting scholarships. The Faculty of Arts and Philosophy can, therefore, make a financial contribution.

For more information, please visit:

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The Department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication is responsible for training, research and services in the area of Applied Language Studies.

As Flanders' largest course in the field of applied language studies, the department has to date conferred about 4,300 licentiate degrees in translation, interpreting and – since 2004 – MAs of Translation, MAs of Interpreting and MAs of Multilingual Communication.

The department has nine sections: German, English, French, Italian, Dutch, Russian, Spanish, Language Technology and Turkish. There are five research groups that span the sections: EQTIS, GOLLD, INTERCOMM, LT3 and TRACE.

Since 1 October 2013, the department has been part of the University of Ghent (UGent). Translation, Interpreting and Communication is one of the nine departments of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy.

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